DECLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY REG DATE 6-17-81
FOR EXEMPT. DATA
IS AUTH. CLASS'N(S)
ENDORSE EXEMPT MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Dear Sir,

I have from time to time noted with acute dismay reports of the activities of Mr. Mennen Williams, the American Assistant Secretary of State for Africa. In parentheses, I might remark that the title of his post is surely a misnomer, since I am not aware that the United States have a direct responsibility in Africa nor a post in the Administration described as Assistant Secretary of State, for example, for Antarctica.

Mr. Williams is now said to have uttered various comments on events in Kenya and appears to view with equanimity that "change might hurt some people financially (and) possibly a few might be hurt physically." No words of mine can possibly convey the feeling of all true Britons to these ill-chosen, untimely and callous observations. Many of us have kith and kin resident in Kenya, whose forefathers went to Kenya very many years ago, long before the Kikuyu obtained numerical domination over the other black tribes, and who have better right to be called Kenyans than the tribe who adulate the unspeakable Jomo Kenyatta, whose crimes against white and black alike in Kenya merited other than being feted by various crank politicians in this country and your Mr. Williams.

It is interference by ill-informed and thoughtless men like Mr. Williams which cause resentment and dislike of Americans generally in this country. Mr. Williams, in giving tacit encouragement to the use of violence by African Nationalists, does not expect "anything like the Congo". The British Government has been aiming at a completely peaceful transition into independence in Kenya (as with all other territories who have attained this status) and Britons hope and expect to see "nothing like the Congo". This could be achieved by preservation of minority rights and due recognition of the position of the White Kenyans, without whose efforts the economy of Kenya will assuredly fail.

Your President would do well to read the terms of the loathesome Mau-Mau oathing ceremonies - or to re-read them - and then to replace Mr. Williams by a more experienced American citizen with the ability to show a better understanding of what is involved in other people's business. He could remind himself that the British do not interfere in internal affairs in America in such matters as Little Rock.

I write as a private citizen having no membership whatsoever of political or social associations in this country, and having as my cousins the two descendants of a brother of my own mother who settled in the United States some forty years ago.

Yours faithfully,

S. D. Cornelius

DECLASSIFIED

31st May, 1962

You spoke to me on Tuesday about the American Ambassador's wish to shoot crows in his garden.

We, of course, have no jurisdiction over what goes on there, but we would be rather unhappy at the idea of the Ambassador killing all the crows which came within his range. Whilst we ourselves limit the numbers of resident crows in Regent's Park to two pairs, we do protect these as part of the Park's quota of bird-life. If they got shot whilst marauding in the gardens of Winfield House the Bird Committee would almost certainly comment unfavorably in their next Report. The ducklings, if Mallards, are expendable - we have indeed to take measures to keep their numbers down.

May I suggest that the Ambassador invites Mr. Gault, the Park Superintendent, round to discuss the matter? If the crows in question are not our own protected two pairs, he can advise on disposal measures. (He uses a Watson's single barrelled hammerless .410 shotgun with which he has hit many birds and (so far) no Park visitors).

Mr. Gault is on Welbeck 1537.

G. D. Crane

A.C.I. Samuel, Esq., C.M.G.,
Foreign Office.

DECLASSIFIED